

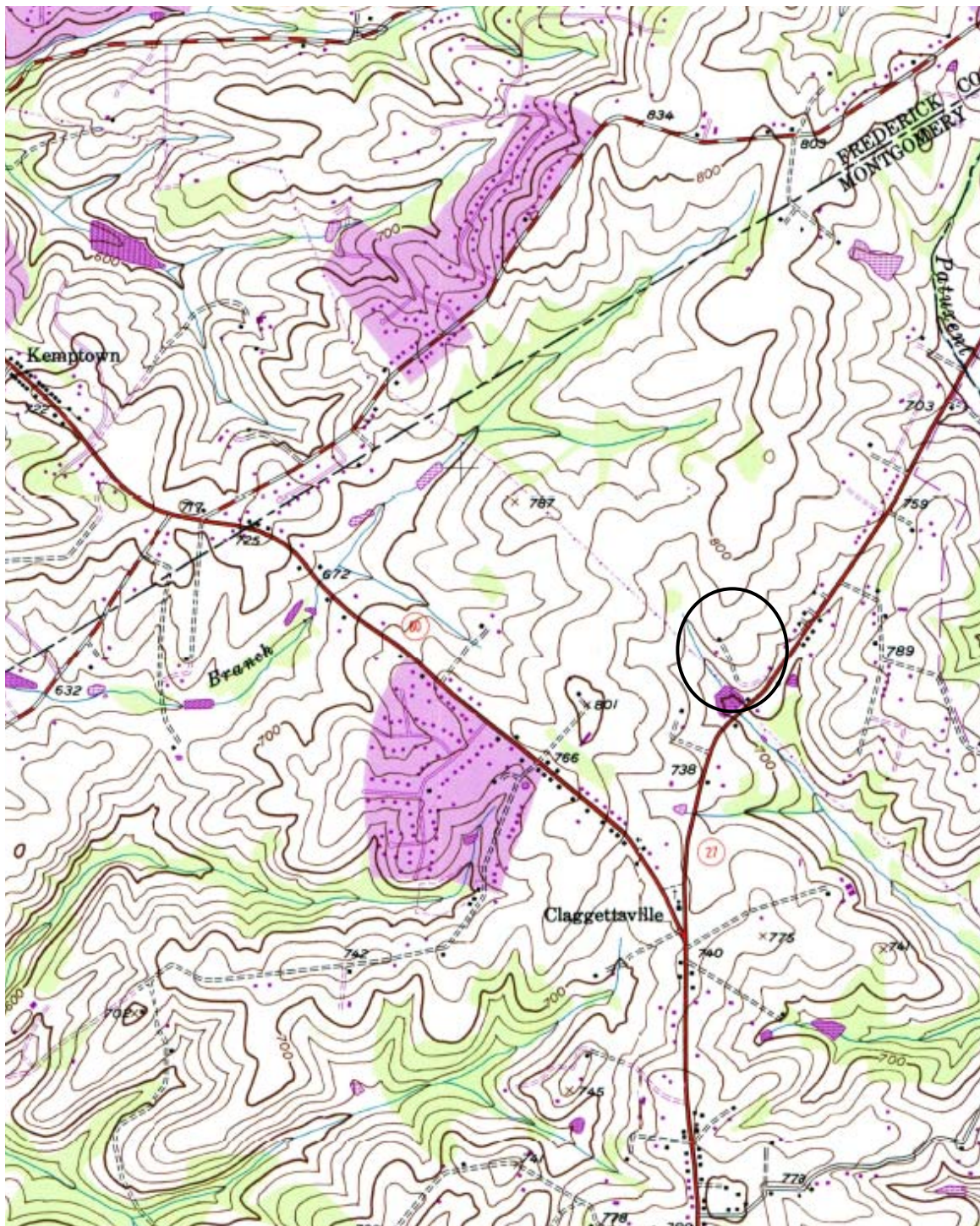
15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm (c1911)
28600 Ridge Road, Mt Airy
Private Access

Capsule Summary

The Molesworth – Burdette Farm is an outstanding farm complex notable for its prominent setting on a slope rising from Ridge Road, its well-maintained Victorian Vernacular dwelling house of high architectural integrity and distinction, and its diverse and well-maintained array of agricultural outbuildings. The resource as a whole has strong architectural significance and exemplifies the agricultural heritage of Upper Montgomery County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The farmstead also represents two periods of ownership by two prominent families: the Molesworths, from 1854 to 1897; and the Burdettes, from 1897 to 1969. The elegant stone spring house is reputed to be the only building on site that predates the ownership of the farm by William Burdette and family. Buildings and structures on the property include the 1911 dwelling house, a summer kitchen/tenant house, a stone spring house that was once fed water by a windmill, a woodhouse/equipment and storage building, a chicken coop with attached outhouse and greenhouse, a closed forebay bank barn, a corn crib and granary with wagon shed and corn loft, a concrete-block milk house/well and pump house, a six-foot deep pit with concrete cap (perhaps the site of the well and windmill), and a modern enclosed farm market building. The dwelling house is in excellent condition, and the outbuildings are in good to excellent condition. The current owners, Richard A. and Nancy S. Biggs, have named the farm Rock Hill Orchard and run a pick-your-own operation that allows the public on this historic property. The Biggs have also placed an agricultural easement on the land to preserve open space.

15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm (c1911)
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USGS Germantown Quad



Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15-5

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Molesworth - Burdette Farm

other Joshua Molesworth, Rock Hill, Rock Hill Farm, Rock Hill Orchard

2. Location

street and number 28600 Ridge Road not for publication

city, town Mt. Airy, MD 21771 vicinity

county Montgomery County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Nancy S. Biggs and Richard A. Biggs, Trustees

street and number 28600 Ridge Road telephone

city, town Mt. Airy state MD zip code 21711

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County liber 14556 folio 557

city, town Rockville tax map FZ51 tax parcel P800 tax ID number 12-00923967

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District

☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER

☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

☒ Other: MNCPPC/Montgomery County Planning Department/Historic Preservation Section

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	8
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	1
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. 15-5

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historic Resource #15-5 Molesworth – Burdette Farm (formerly known as Joshua Molesworth) is located in Clagettsville in Montgomery County, Maryland, on the northwest side of Ridge Road (Route 27) near its intersection with Brown’s Church Road. The property lies approximately 3700 feet northeast of the junction of Ridge Road and Kemptown Road (Route 80) and 4400 feet southwest of the point where Ridge Road crosses the Patuxent into Howard County. The property’s address is 28600 Ridge Road, and its parcel number is P800. The property derives from a tract known as Warfield and Snowden and contains 137.5 acres of farmland and various buildings and improvements. Two tributaries of the Farney Branch of the Monocacy River run along the northern edge of the parcel, and a section of the Damascus tributary of the Patuxent River runs along the southern portion of the property, ending in a pond. Portions of the property along the northern, western, and southwestern boundaries are wooded, and the property slopes gently toward the road. The owners, Nancy and Richard Biggs, run a “pick your own” produce operation on the property, which is known as Rock Hill Orchard. The homestead is located about 650 feet off the road and is clustered in trees. Its fine collection of buildings sits in an area of approximately three acres. The buildings and structures on the property include a late Victorian vernacular dwelling house, a spring house, a dinner bell, a six-foot deep pit with concrete roof, a summer/tenant house, a corncrib and granary with central wagon shed, a bank barn, a woodhouse/storage and equipment shed with lean-to, a chicken coop/greenhouse with attached outhouse, a concrete-block milk house/well and pump house, and, close to the road, a modern enclosed farm market building.

Dwelling House (late Victorian Vernacular, ca. 1911) (contributing)

The dwelling house is a late and particularly fine example of rural Victorian vernacular architecture, in excellent condition and with high integrity and architectural merit. The house is oriented southeast toward the street and sits about 800 feet off the road. The house has an irregular plan and consists of a two-and-a-half story main block with a front porch, a two-and-a-half story rear ell with a porch on the southwest facade, a small one-story bay along the rear (northwest) façade of the rear ell, and a two-story side addition (formerly an open porch) along the northeast façade of the rear ell. The basic form – center cross gable with lancet windows – was popular throughout upper Montgomery County with examples as late as the early 1900’s.

The roofing materials of the main block, rear ell, and two-story side addition are composite shingles, which, according to Richard Biggs, is laid over a slate roof that was too badly damaged to salvage when he bought the property in 1969. The roofing materials of the front porch, porch along the southwest façade, and rear bay are standing seam metal. The house is clad in wood clapboards, except that the roof gables and cut-away bay are clad with fishscale and other patterned wood shingles. There is an offset stove pipe chimney on the main block and an exterior brick chimney on the northwest side of the rear ell.

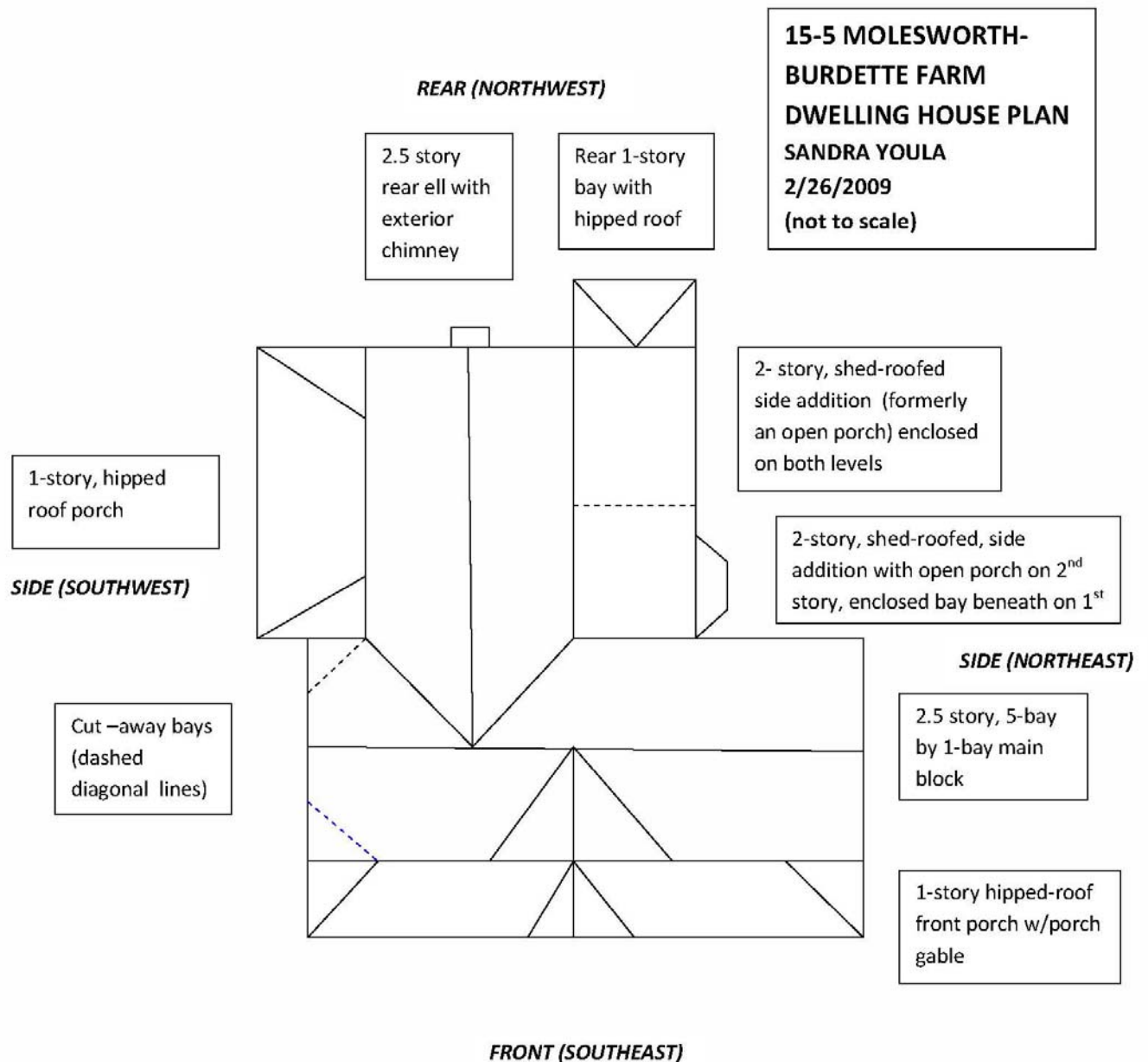
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The *main block* is a rectangular center-gabled structure that is five bays wide by two bays deep. The front façade is symmetrical, with a center door and transom flanked by sidelights. Windows are one-over-one sash, and most of the frames and at least 50% of the glass are original, per the current owner, Richard Biggs. In addition to fishscale and other patterned shingles, the center front roof gable has a lancet window, cornice returns, and dentil molding. Along the front facade is a full-width front porch with a hipped roof and central dormer, which echoes the front gable on the main roof. The porch has cornice-line dentil molding and classical, full-height porch support columns. The central dormer contains raised triangular panels on a background of diagonal wood slats. The southeastern end of the main block is a two-story cut-away bay with corner brackets. The southeastern and northeastern gable ends have two lancet windows each in addition to cornice returns, dentil molding, and, as noted, patterned wood shingles.

The rectangular *rear ell* is three bays deep by two bays wide and has a center gable facing southwest toward the Damascus tributary of the Patuxent River. The center gable has cornice returns, dentil molding, and a single lancet window. Along the entire width of the southeastern façade of the rear ell is a one-story porch with a hipped roof, dentil molding, spindlework porch brackets, and turned spindle porch supports. The owner indicated that when stripped of paint, one of the columns on the porch had “Peoples Lumber” (in Mt Airy) printed on it. The southeastern façade is symmetrical, and the windows are one-over-one sash. The door is surmounted by a transom. This facade reads like a second front entrance.

The *two-story side addition* appears to have been an open porch that was partially enclosed. Currently, it contains an open porch on a portion of the second floor and a bay window on the first floor. The bay window was added by current owner, Richard Biggs, to replace a deteriorated screened porch or mud room.¹

An article dated August 18, 1987 in an unnamed newspaper entitled “Rock Hill Farm: Fairy Warfield remembers Clagettville’s early days”² indicated that the dwelling house was built by Fairy’s parents, William and Beda Burdette in 1911. Mr. Biggs noted that he was told by Roger Burdette, a grandson of William Burdette, that the current dwelling house was built on the foundation of a previous dwelling house.

The center gabled, asymmetrical T-shaped form of the house and the lancet windows are Gothic Revival elements commonly found in Montgomery County’s rural vernacular architecture from the 1860’s to 1880’s; the cornice returns and door with transom and side lights are Greek revival elements found in Montgomery County’s rural vernacular architecture from 1840 – 1860’s; and the patterned wood shingles, cut-away bays, and porch details are Queen Anne elements. The classical columns and dentil moldings on the front porch and gables are characteristic of the Free Classic Queen Anne subtype, which became popular nationally after 1890.

¹ Telephone conversation between Richard Biggs, one of the owners of Rock Hill Orchard (#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm) and Sandra Youla, researcher, on Wednesday, 2/18/09. All information from Mr. Biggs referenced in this MIHP forms comes from this telephone conversation.

² Jill Teunis, “Rock Hill Farm: Fairy Warfield remembers Clagettville’s early days”, in Ms Teunis’ column called *Here in Damascus* in unnamed newspaper that says along the top “Zone A-Damascus/Mt. Airy”, August 18, 1982, page 5.

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The spindlework porch brackets and turned porch supports on the southwest façade are characteristic of the earlier Spindlework Queen Anne subtype. Here these disparate Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne elements are knit into a harmonious whole to produce an elegant local interpretation of national styles.

Summer Kitchen/Tenant House (ca.1911) (contributing)

To the rear of the dwelling house is a summer kitchen/tenant house that is two bays wide and three bays deep. This tall outbuilding is one and a half stories, front-gabled, and has clapboard siding and a corrugated tin roof with an interior chimney. The windows appear to be original. Most windows are six over six sash, but in the rear gable, there are two fixed two-over-two windows. The eaves are boxed, and the front door has four recessed panels, one of them missing. Two corrugated metal bands project from the rear elevation under the gable windows. The southeastern façade facing the main house has an unusual arrangement of windows: on the first floor are two six-over-six sash windows with a fixed two-over-two window in the center and slightly above the six-over-six windows, and in the half story above is a two-over-two. In the southwestern interior corner of the house on the ground floor is a winder staircase leading to the floor above.

Current owner Richard Biggs indicated that he replaced all the siding on the southeast side (the side facing the main dwelling house) because it had deteriorated and that there had been three types of siding on the house when he bought the property, including German lap siding. While the siding on the southeast side was being replaced, the center two-over-two window on the first floor between the two six-over-six windows was added. Mr. Biggs also replaced the beams under the ground floor and replaced the floor. He noted that he was able to preserve most of the original glass in the windows. His consultant in restoring this building and others on the property was a Mr. Bill Robertson, who Mr. Biggs indicated was a specialist in historic structures.

The aforementioned article indicated that the Burdette family slept in the summer house while the new dwelling house was being constructed. Richard Biggs also noted that he understood that the summer house/tenant house was either built from timbers from the original dwelling house or clad with siding from the original dwelling house and that the summer house, as the article noted, was used as temporary quarters for the Burdette family, and then as a tenant house. An examination of the tax records might indicate whether the summer house already existed prior to the original dwelling house being torn down.

Spring House (pre-1911) (contributing), Dinner Bell, Pit with Concrete Roof, Demolished Log Meat House, Demolished Carriage Shed

Located to the northwest of the house approximately 25 feet is a one-story, front-gabled outbuilding with dimensions of about 12 feet by 12 feet. This building features stone walls, wood clapboards in the gable ends, and a roof of cedar wood shakes. On the front or southwestern side is a small door made of vertical wood slats. According to current owner Richard Biggs, previous owner Roger Burdette told him that the building was a "spring" house and that at one time there was a windmill on the property that pumped water to the spring house

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through a pipe from a pond or stream. The windmill and pond were apparently located to the southwest of the house, and by 1972 there were only sunken remnants of the pond, per Mr. Biggs. Mr. Biggs notes as well that there is evidence of a trough and a pipe inside the stone spring house. The spring house was quite deteriorated when Richard Biggs took possession and he substantially rebuilt it, adding a foundation because the building had been built without one, rebuilding a collapsed stone wall, and adding a roof with cedar shingles because the roof had collapsed.

A dinner bell on a wood post stands near the spring house and says "No. 3 Yoke 1886 Crystal, ME."

Also to the southwest of the dwelling house about halfway between the dwelling house and pond, according to Mr. Biggs, is a six-foot deep pit with a concrete roof that may have been a well. A site visit to photograph this structure would be useful. This may have been the location of a windmill that was once located on the site.

Mr. Biggs noted that Roger Burdette told him that the spring house was from the original farmstead and predated the existing dwelling house, along with a now non-existent log meat house that was located to the north of the summer house but was too deteriorated to restore when Mr. Biggs purchased the property. Mr. Biggs stated that the logs in the log meat house were quite large – 12 by 12.

Bank Barn (ca. late 19th c. or early 20th c., pre-1911) (contributing)

A bank barn with a closed forebay is located to the south of the house. The uphill or wagon ramp side of the barn faces north, the downhill or forebay side south. The barn is a side-gabled, rectangular structure, with dimensions of approximately 72 feet by 40 feet. The exterior is sheathed with vertical wood siding, except for the lower level on the forebay side, which is sheathed with horizontal wood siding. The roof is covered with corrugated metal, and there are snowcatchers along its edge. The barn's foundation is made of rubblestone. The rubblestone foundation supporting the closed forebay on the southeast corner is deteriorating and on the northeast corner has been replaced by concrete block. The barn was built using post and beam construction. Circular sawn beams and beams that are hewn on the top and bottom and rounded and on the side may be observed in the lower level of the barn.

On the barn's north façade is a rolling barn door accessed by an earthen wagon ramp. On the barn's south façade, there are two rolling barn doors in the projecting forebay, and on the lower level, two double dutch doors, two dutch doors, one rolling barn door, and three six-over-six sash windows. The initials "H.B." were painted on one of the double dutch doors. On the east gable end, there are two doors in the stone foundation, and on the west gable end, there is a door in the gable and a door in the foundation.

The previously mentioned newspaper article entitled "Rock Hill Farm: Fairy Warfield remembers Clagettville's early days" noted that the carpenters and workers who built the 1911 dwelling house lived in the barn while the house was being built. Thus the barn most likely predates 1911.

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Mr. Biggs stated that he was told by Roger Burdette that all the timbers for the barn were cut from the farm and that the barn was roughly the same age as the dwelling house. Mr. Biggs mentioned as well that prior to his purchase of the farm in 1969, a steel girder and the concrete blocks had been added to the barn. Over the years, the barn suffered major termite damage, but Mr. Biggs stabilized the building by pouring footings and adding pressure-treated wood.

Corn Crib and Granary (ca. late 19th c. or early 20th c.) (contributing)

To the southwest of the house is a slightly asymmetrical corn crib and granary, with central wagon shed and corn loft, a variant on the more common double corn crib. The structure is of braced frame construction and elevated on rubblestone piers along the southwest side. The front of the structure is along the northeast side. The corn crib is located on the southeast side and has loosely-spaced narrow wood slats along its interior wall adjoining the wagon shed and loosely-spaced wide, vertical wood siding on its exterior walls. These features allow maximum air circulation to keep the corn from molding. The granary, which is wider than the corn crib, was used to store other small grains such as oats, wheat, barley, and rye, and is located along the northwest side of the structure. The granary has wide, tightly-spaced wood siding on the interior wall adjoining the wagon shed and board and batten siding on the exterior. These features prevent foraging by vermin. The rubblestone piers help both with air circulation and protection from vermin. The corn crib and granary are located to either side of the wagon shed, and a corn loft is located above the wagon shed bay. The rear of the central wagon shed has been closed off with plywood. The building is front gabled and has a corrugated metal roof. Along the front façade, the corncrib and granary are accessed by door openings, one of which is missing a door. There are window openings in both the front and back gables, and there is a door opening above the window in the front gable for greater access to the loft. A similar, albeit more asymmetrical corn crib and granary with central wagon shed and overhead corn loft may be found at #15-17 Etchison-Brandenburg Farm (formerly William Brandenburg Farm).

Woodhouse or Storage and Equipment Shed with Lean-to (contributing)

About one foot behind the spring house is a rectangular shed-roofed storage and equipment shed with a lean-to on its rear (northern) facade. The building is of timber frame construction and is clad with vertical wood siding. The roof is clad with corrugated metal roof and has exposed rafters. On its southern façade, which faces the rear of the spring or dairy house, are two carriage or wagon openings, one of which is substantially blocked by the spring house. The building has been in its current location since at least 1969, although it appears to have been moved there. Richard Biggs shored the building up inside using timbers that he believed were poplar that were stored in the rafters in the barn. According to Mr. Biggs, Roger Burdette called this building a woodhouse.

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Chicken Coop, Attached Outhouse (privy) (ca 1911), and Attached Greenhouse (modern) (contributing);
Demolished Carriage Shed

Approximately 20 feet to the northeast of the storage and equipment shed is a rectangular board-and-batten outbuilding, probably at one time a chicken coop, with an attached outhouse on its southeastern facade and an attached greenhouse on its southwestern facade. Both the chicken coop and outhouse have shed roofs of corrugated metal. The outhouse, one of the few seen in this area of the county during surveys, is made of vertical wood siding, with a door on the southwestern facade. Mr. Biggs indicated that it may be a two-seater (although it appears narrow for such) and that he placed a board over the seat because the building is overrun with groundhogs. The greenhouse that is attached to the chicken coop is made of plastic sheeting over a wooden frame and was built around 1990. Termites damaged the chicken coop, but Mr. Biggs reinforced it about 2007 with pressure-treated wood. The roof is still in poor condition.

Sometime after 1969, a storm blew down a carriage shed that stood near the chicken coop, and only a portion of the foundation still exists.

Concrete-Block Milk House/Well and Pump House (ca. 1920 – 1930's) (contributing)

To the east of the barn is a small rectangular building with dimensions of approximately 16 feet by 12 feet. The building has a hipped roof covered with composite shingles, panel-faced concrete block walls with lighter colored panel-faced corner quoins, and a plain-faced concrete block foundation. On the front (northwestern) side are two doors: one on the western side boarded up with plywood, the other on the eastern side made of four wood panels set in a wood frame. Beneath a concrete slab in the floor are the well and a new pump that Mr. Biggs installed in 1972.

Modern, Enclosed Farm Market Building (1983) (non-contributing)

Just off Ridge Road on a portion of the farm's driveway is a modern metal farm market building. The rectangular building is four bays wide by one bay deep and is side gabled. The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal and the roofline extends along the front (southeast) face of the building to form a covered porch. Mr. Biggs erected the building in 1983.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	Architect/Builder
Construction dates Farmhouse: 1911	
Evaluation for:	
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register <input type="checkbox"/> not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

The Molesworth – Burdette Farm (Historic Resource #15-5) contains an outstanding farm complex that is notable for its prominent setting on a slope rising from Ridge Road, its well-maintained Victorian vernacular dwelling house of high architectural integrity and distinction, and its diverse and well-maintained array of agricultural outbuildings. As such, the resource as a whole has strong architectural significance and exemplifies the agricultural heritage of Upper Montgomery County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The farmstead also represents two periods of ownership by two prominent families: the Molesworths, from 1854 to 1897; and the Burdettes, from 1897 to 1969. The elegant stone spring house is reputed to be the only building on site that predates the ownership of the farm by William Burdette and family. Buildings and structures on the property include the 1911 dwelling house, a summer kitchen/tenant house, a stone spring house that was once fed water by a windmill, a woodhouse/equipment and storage building, a chicken coop with attached outhouse and greenhouse, a closed forebay bank barn, a corn crib and granary with wagon shed and corn loft, a concrete-block milk house/well and pump house, a six-foot deep pit with concrete cap (perhaps the site of the well and windmill), and a modern enclosed farm market building. The dwelling house is in excellent condition, and the outbuildings are in good to excellent condition. The current owners, Richard A. and Nancy S. Biggs, have named the farm Rock Hill Orchard and run a pick-your-own operation that allows the public on this historic property. The Biggs have also placed an agricultural easement on the land to preserve open space.

Molesworth-Burdette Farm History

Land Patents: The land from which current day Rock Hill Orchard (Molesworth-Burdette Farm) derives came from a tract known as “Warfield and Snowden.” Warfield and Snowden³ was a resurvey of Prospect Hill,⁴

³ Warfield and Snowden, MSA S-1202-64, Montgomery County, at Maryland State Archives, plats.net.

⁴ Prospect Hill, MSA S-1189-1293, Anne Arundel County, at Maryland State Archives, plats.net.

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which was a resurvey of Friendship Enlarged,⁵ which was a resurvey of Friendship.⁶ Friendship was a tract of 1575 acres that was surveyed and patented in 1760 by Col. Henry Ridgely (IV),⁷ hero of the French and Indian Wars,⁸ resident of Howard County (then Anne Arundel), and one of the major land owners in Montgomery County.⁹ Warfield and Snowden was surveyed in 1811 and patented in 1812 by Col. Henry Ridgely's son-in-law, Major (Dr.) Charles Alexander Warfield, who was married to Elizabeth Ridgely, and by Ann Snowden, Col. Ridgely's daughter, who was married to Major Thomas Snowden.¹⁰ Eventually, land from Warfield and Snowden passed to Dr. Peregrine Warfield, who was Col. Henry Ridgely's grandson and Dr. Charles Alexander Warfield's son.¹¹

Joshua Molesworth: In 1851, Dr. Peregrine Warfield sold about 530 acres from Warfield and Snowden to Abram England and Gassaway S. Grimes.¹² In a deed recorded April 4, 1854, Abram and Elizabeth England of Howard County and Gassaway S. Grimes and Susan Grimes of the City of Baltimore sold a 228-acre tract of "Warfield and Snowden" in Montgomery County to Joshua Molesworth of Carroll County.¹³ The 1860 Census showed Joshua Molesworth and his family living in the Clarksburg District of Montgomery County, and the

⁵ Friendship Enlarged, MSA S-1189-560, Anne Arundel County, at Maryland State Archives, plats.net.

⁶ Friendship, MSA S-1197-1575, Frederick County, at Maryland State Archives, plats.net

⁷ Harry Wright Newman, Anne Arundel Gentry: A Genealogical History of Some Early Families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Volume Three (Annapolis, MD: self-published, 1979), page 34. The Ridgelys were a prominent family in Maryland's early history, and different branches spawned many sons named Henry over the centuries. However, per Newman, the Henry Ridgely who lived from 1728 to 1791 was the owner of land called Friendship of 1275 acres, which he was forced to mortgage, along with numerous other properties, on 4/27/177_ to meet substantial debts. Newman notes this mortgage was fully redeemed by the value of Ridgeley's personal estate after his death.

⁸ J.D. Warfield, The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland (Baltimore, MD: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), pages 351 – 353, at Google Books.

⁹ Richard K. MacMaster & Ray Eldon Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance – The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland 1776 – 1976 (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), page 44.

¹⁰ Joshua Dorsey Warfield, The Warfields of Maryland (Baltimore: Daily Record Co., 1898), page 52.

¹¹ The Ridgelys, Warfields, and Snowdens were progenitor families and all came to Maryland in 1659. (See, generally, J.D. Warfield, The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland, op. cit., pages 77, 351 – 353, and 363.) The members of these families who held Warfield and Snowden were significant in Maryland's history. Major Charles Alexander Warfield is known as the hero of the Burning of the Peggy Steward, which was Maryland's equivalent in October 1774 of the Boston Tea Party. Ann Ridgely Snowden and Thomas Snowden were notable for building Montpelier in Laurel, Maryland, a Georgian manor on the National Register. Major Thomas Snowden was a Revolutionary War hero who served under George Washington. He came from a notable family, some who were Quakers, who were instrumental in settling Anne Arundel, Howard, Prince George's and Montgomery County and setting up iron works and mills. (See the Snowden-Warfield family website at www.snowden-warfield.com and J.D. Warfield, The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, generally.) The Patuxent River was once known as Snowden's River. Dr. Peregrine Warfield was present at and a victim of mob violence in the infamous Baltimore Riot of 1812 after he tried to help his Federalist friend, Alexander Contee Hansen, defend Hansen's property and press. (See <http://mason.gmu.edu/~shurter/hist697/printers/images.htm> and Richard k. MacMaster and Ray Eldon Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance: The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland 1776 – 1976 (Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society, 1976), pages 83 – 86.

¹² Deed STS 5/365, Montgomery County Land Records, recorded 1851.5.31.

¹³ Deed JGH 3/202, Montgomery County Land records, recorded 1854.4.24.

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1865 Martenet and Bond Map of Montgomery County¹⁴ showed Joshua Molesworth living on the west side of what is now Ridge Road northeast of its intersection with Kemptown Road, i.e. on the site discussed here. Joshua Molesworth (b. 1819) was the fifth child of Eli Molesworth (b. 11.14.1798) and Ascenath Chambers (b. 4.6.1790). Eli and two of his brothers, Samuel and James, left their home in London and came to Maryland in the late 1700's or early 1800's. The 1810 Census lists Eli (spelled "Ely") as living with his family in Anne Arundel, and other sources indicate that he lived on a farm near Long Corner (now Howard County)¹⁵ that by 1937 had become the home of a Mr. Sandy Mullinix.

Joshua Molesworth married Ascenath Chambers (b. 4.6.1790), and they had five children, all daughters: Amelia Katherine Molesworth Bennett, Mary Molesworth Warfield, Ann Molesworth Warfield, Ella Molesworth Pear, and Alice Molesworth, who died young.

William Burdette and Subsequent Owners: In a deed recorded November 26, 1897, Joshua's daughter, Amelia, and her husband Jules Herman Bennett conveyed the farm to William H. and John J. Burdett (spelled without an "e" in the deed), tenants in common.¹⁶ The deed described the property as a 228-acre tract of Warfield and Snowden.

W.N. Hurley, in his book, Our Maryland Heritage, Book Six: The Burdette Families, says the following about William Hubert Burdette (1872 – 1959):

This son of Perry G. Burdette (1849), was born December 27, 1872 in Howard County, Maryland, and died July 13, 1949, having moved to Montgomery County about the turn of the century. Married at Welsey Grove church, August 11, 1897 to Beda Cassandra King, born April 7, 1873, died December 7, 1964. She was a daughter of Singleton Lewis King (1843) and Mary Rachel Elizabeth Burdette (1853). He [William Hubert Burdette] was a farmer, and leader of Montgomery County Republicans. Appointed judge of the Orphans Court in 1938, and held the post for several years. He was also one of the founders of the Citizens Savings and Loan Association, one of the better known conservative institutions in the county. Children:

1. Perry Hubert Burdette, born May 22, 1898. Married to Louise Harned and had a son Kenneth Burdette, born 1923...
2. Fairy Elizabeth Burdette, born February 14, 1902. Married September 28, 1921 to Hamilton Deets Warfield, born December 21, 1897 near Browningsville, and died March 29, 1974, son of Samuel Dorsey Warfield and Alice Roberta Baker 91873). He owned and operated Damascus Chevrolet for 56 years. Children:

¹⁴ Simon J. Martenet, Martenet and Bond's Map of Montgomery County, 1865, Library of Congress, MSA SC 1213-1-464

¹⁵ Mrs. Samuel Molesworth, "History of the Molesworth Family", September 1937, in the records of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

¹⁶ Deed JA 60/441, Montgomery County Land Records, recorded 1897.11.26.

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- a. Hamilton Deets Warfield, Jr., born September 19, 1931...
 - b. Joyce Elaine Warfield, born April 18, 1937. Married February 13, 1959 to Edmond Hamilton Rhodes, Jr., ...
3. Roger William Burdette, born April 24, 1909, and died March 9, 1976. He was a retired tax assessor for Montgomery County, and president of Ridgeville Nurseries...Married in 1934 to Dorothy Laurene Souder, born May 8, 1912...children:
 - a. Roger William Burdette, Jr.
 - b. Richard Souder Burdette¹⁷

According to a newspaper article¹⁸ dated August 18, 1982 that profiled Fairy Burdette Warfield, who was the daughter of owner William H. Burdette (b. 1873, d. late 1950's) and his wife, Beda Burdette (b. 1873, d. 1964)¹⁹, William and Beda had the current house built in 1911. The article stated:

"In those days," [Fairy Burdette Warfield] says, "the builders and carpenters were boarded at the farm. We lived in the summer kitchen while the old house was pulled down and the new one built. The men slept in the barn, and my mother kept everyone fed."

The new house boasted a living room, dining room, parlor kitchen, seven bedrooms, including two in the attic, and two bathrooms. Water was pumped by windmill from a spring to provide running water for the house.

Heat for the house was supplied by a hot air furnace, fueled by wood or coal. Light was from oil lamps or a "delco" system. By the 1920's Rock Hill Farm had electricity, after successful petitioning by local residents to bring power to the Clagettsville area.

According to Fairy Warfield, her father raised wheat, corn and tobacco. Livestock included cows, horses, chickens and pigs, and all the farm work was done with horses.

"I don't remember when we got tractors," says Fairy. "Some farmers didn't like them because they said they made the ground hard."

¹⁷ W.N. Hurley, Jr., Our Maryland Heritage, Book Six: The Burdette Families (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1998), pages 171 – 173.

¹⁸ Jill Teunis, op. cit.

¹⁹ Beda Cassandra King, b. 4.7.1873, married 8.11.1897 at Wesley Grove to William Hurber Burdette. Beda was the daughter of Singleton Lewis King (b. 11.23.1843, d. 11.1.1909) and Mary Rachel Elizabeth Burdette (b. 6.9.1852, d. 4.17.1923), per Hurley, The Burdette Families, op.cit, pages 69 – 75.

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The many outbuildings included a barn, two tobacco houses, a corn crib, meat house, hog house, dairy and a wood shed. The ice house was underneath the carriage house and during the winter, ice was cut from the farm pond, packed in straw and stored for use in the summer.

In a deed recorded on January 2, 1969, Fairy Elizabeth Warfield, Roger William Burdette, Kenneth E. Burdette, and their spouses conveyed the farm to Richard Alan Biggs, one of the current owners. Parts of the farm had been sold off prior to the sale to Mr. Biggs, and the farm currently is 137.85 acres. On September 6, 2006, the current owners, Richard A. and Nancy S. Biggs, allowed an agricultural easement to be placed on the land for five years by signing and recording a Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation District Agreement.²⁰ The Biggs now run a "pick your own" operation on the farm, and thus the public has access to this historic and architecturally significant farm.

Victorian Vernacular Architecture in the Upper Patuxent Area

Most farmhouses in the Upper Patuxent area dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries were not built by architects but by builders, and thus the houses combine elements of national styles in unique and local ways. Built in 1911, the dwelling house on the Molesworth-Burdette farm is a late and fine example of Montgomery County's Victorian vernacular farmhouses and is also the most ornate farmhouse surveyed in the Upper Patuxent area. The dwelling house combines transoms, sidelights, cornice returns, lancet windows, center-gable roof, and an asymmetrical T-shaped form with Queen Anne stylistic elements including patterned shingles, cut-away bays, ornate wall surfaces with multiple types of cladding, spindlework brackets and porch supports, and Free Classic porch supports, brackets, and dentil molding. The overall effect is to create a distinctive, elegantly detailed, and well-proportioned vernacular farmhouse.

In the Clagettsville area, only one other dwelling house surveyed possesses both Queen Anne form and details, namely the Robert and Susan B. Moxley House located at 28322 Kempton Road within #15--8 Clagettsville Historic District. This house is set on a small lot, is four bays wide, and includes a polygonal turret with fishscale shingles. The house is not as ornate as dwelling house at #15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm. In the Upper Patuxent area, another farmhouse possessing Queen Anne form and details is #15-7 William Brandenburg House, which is three bays wide and has fishscale wood shingles in the center and side gables but no cut-away bays and far less ornamentation. This house also has cornice returns and is in excellent condition with several fine outbuildings, but it is set on a much smaller piece of land than #15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm. Master Plan site #14-32 Rufus and Della King Farm near Woodfield is an example of a three-bay wide, center-gable Gothic Revival house that combines some of the Queen Anne and Greek Revival elements found

²⁰ Deed 32959/026 in the Montgomery County Land Records, recorded September 9, 2006, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation District Agreement, Richard A. and Nancy S. Biggs, Trustees.

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in Molesworth-Burdette, but differs because of its three-story corner turret and overall greater restraint in ornamentation.²¹ Consequently, #15-5 Molesworth-Burdette appears to be unique in its form and elaboration.

²¹ Note that the dwelling house at Historic Resource #14-32 Rufus and Della King Farm was built around 1898 under the ownership of Rufus King. Rufus was the older brother of Beda Cassandra King Burdette, and Beda was undoubtedly influenced by the style of his house when deciding on the style of her own home, built around 1911, at Historic Resource #15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm.

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DEED RESEARCH

#15-5 Molesworth – Burdette Farm (formerly Joshua Molesworth)

Deed #	Date	Parties	Land
35268/334 (The orig. Deed of Easement dated 2007.12.6 was lost prior to being recorded in land records in MC, & this photocopy is a true and accurate copy to be recorded in MC land records)	2008.1.22	Richard A. Biggs and Nancy S. Biggs, trustees of two trusts – Richard A. Biggs Trust and the Nancy S. Biggs Trust -- Grantors, To State of Maryland, to the use of the Dpt. Of Agriculture on behalf of the Maryland Agricultural Land preservation foundation, party of the second part, Grantee Containing covenants intended to be real covenants running with the land	Deed of Easement (Agricultural Preservation Easement) \$971,635.00 Tax ID 12-923967 Same land as 14556/557, rec. 1996/11/29, and at Appendix A, as below: Parts of tracts of land called Warfield and Snowden as described in JA 60/441, rec. 1897.11.26 containing 228 acres, with 8 named exceptions of parts of tract that had been sold off
35859/535 (this appears to be the original Deed of easement)	2007.12.18	Same as above	Same as above
32959/026	2006.9.6	Richard A. Biggs and Nancy S. Biggs, trustees, and Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)	MALPF District Agreement Establishes an agricultural land preservation district on the land 137.85 acres, as described in 14556/557

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Deed #	Date	Parties	Land
14556/557	1996.12.10	Richard Alan Biggs, Grantor And Richard A. Biggs and Nancy S. Biggs, Trustees of Richard A. Biggs Trust, Party of Second part; and Richard A. Biggs and Nancy S. Biggs Trust, Party of Third Part, Grantees	Quitclaim Deed Grantor gives grantees each an undivided one-half interest in property and improvements Parts of Warfield and Snowden, same land as JA 60/441, 228 acres, with 6 named exceptions of parts of tract that have been sold off: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 176/26 (78 ¼ ac) 2. 352/243 (1 acre, 14 perches) 3. 418/73 (a1 acre, 1 rood, 27 sq. perches) 4. 532/224 (3 roods, 15.58 sq. perches) 5. 1349/149 (3 roods, 16 sq.perches) 6. 1729/176 (0.88 acre) Same as 3821/493, dated 1968.12.27
3821/493	1969.1.2	Fairy Elizabeth Warfield, roger William Burdette, Kenneth E.Burdette, and Kenneth e. Burdette, Trustee under the Will of Hubert Perry Burdette, deceased, parties of first part, and H. Deets Warfield, husband of Fairy Elizabeth Warfield; Dorothy S. Burdett, wife of Roger William Burdette; and Evelyn C. Burdette, wife of Kenneth e. Burdette, parties of second part, GRANTORS, and Richard Alan Biggs, party of the third part, GRANTEE	Deed No # amount listed Same land as above

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Deed #	Date	Parties	Land
JA 60/441	1897.11.26	<p>Amelia C. Bennett and Jules Herman Bennett her husband; Titus W. Warfield and William Roberts Administrators, D.B.N.C.T.A.; Rebecca J. Roberts and William H. Roberts her husband; Mary S. Warfield and John E. Warfield her husband; Annie C. Warfield and Titus W. Warfield her husband; Ella v. Peaire and Holland Peaire her husband, GRANTORS</p> <p>To</p> <p>William H. Burdett and John J. Burdett, tenants in common, GRANTEES</p>	<p>Deed \$8436.00</p> <p>Parcel of land lying in Montgomery County called Warfield and Snowden or whatever the same may be called, contained within the following:</p> <p>Beginning a stone planted at the beginning of that part of said tract which was conveyed by Peregrine Warfield and Harriet his wife, to Abram England and Gassaway S. Grimes and running thence north...east...north...east...south...east...to the county road, then binding to the western edge of said road south...west...north...west ...to near a hickory tree north...west...south...west...to the North edge of the old Quaker Road where stands a black oak tree heretofore marked thence bounding on the north edge of said road...north...west ...to an outline of the whole tract then binding on said line north...west... to a stone planted at the end of said line then binding on the lines of Alfred Bakers part of said tract...north...east...north...east...north...west...to the given line of the whole tract and binding thereon north...east...to the beginning.</p> <p>Containing 228 acres.</p>
JGH 3/202	1854.4.24	<p>Abram England and Elizabeth England his wife of Howard County, and Gassaway S. Grimes and Susan Grimes of the City of Baltimore, GRANTORS</p> <p>To</p> <p>Joshua Molesworth of Carroll Cnty, GRANTEE</p>	<p>Deed \$1824.00</p> <p>Same as above.</p> <p>228 acres.</p>

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Deed #	Date	Parties	Land
STS 5/365	1851.5.31	Peregrine Warfield and wife Harriet Warfield To Abram England and Gassaway Grimes	Deed, \$3194.00 “that portion of land called Warfield and Snowden in MC... Beginning at a stone planted at the beginning of whole tract of Warfield and Snowden running. ..with the outlines thereof...to the courses & distances on the original certificate or grant thereof dated 1811.6.14... two courses ...to the end of the second line of whole tract aforesaid then... with a dividing line...the said whole tract south...east... to a stake at the end of 100 th line of whole tract called W & S then ...with outlines thereof in succession agreeably to courses & distances confessed in the original grant or patent thereof 23 courses...to a stone at the end of the tract...23 rd line of the whole tract aforesaid, then by and with the closing line of whole tract north...east to the ...beginning containing 530 acres, 3 roods, 32 perches”

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 137.85 acres
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of 137.85 acres is defined by the bounds of the parcel P800.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Sandra Youla		
organization	MNCPPC/MCPD – Historic Preservation Section	date	2/25/09
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	MD 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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Patent: Prospect Hill, MSA S-1189-1293, Anne Arundel County, at Maryland State Archives, plats.net

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Teunis, Jill, in her column *Here in Damascus*, “Rock Hill Farm: Fairy Warfield remembers Clagettville’s early days”, in an unnamed newspaper that says along the top “Zone A-Damascus/Mt. Airy” (probably the Gazette), August 18, 1982, page 5.

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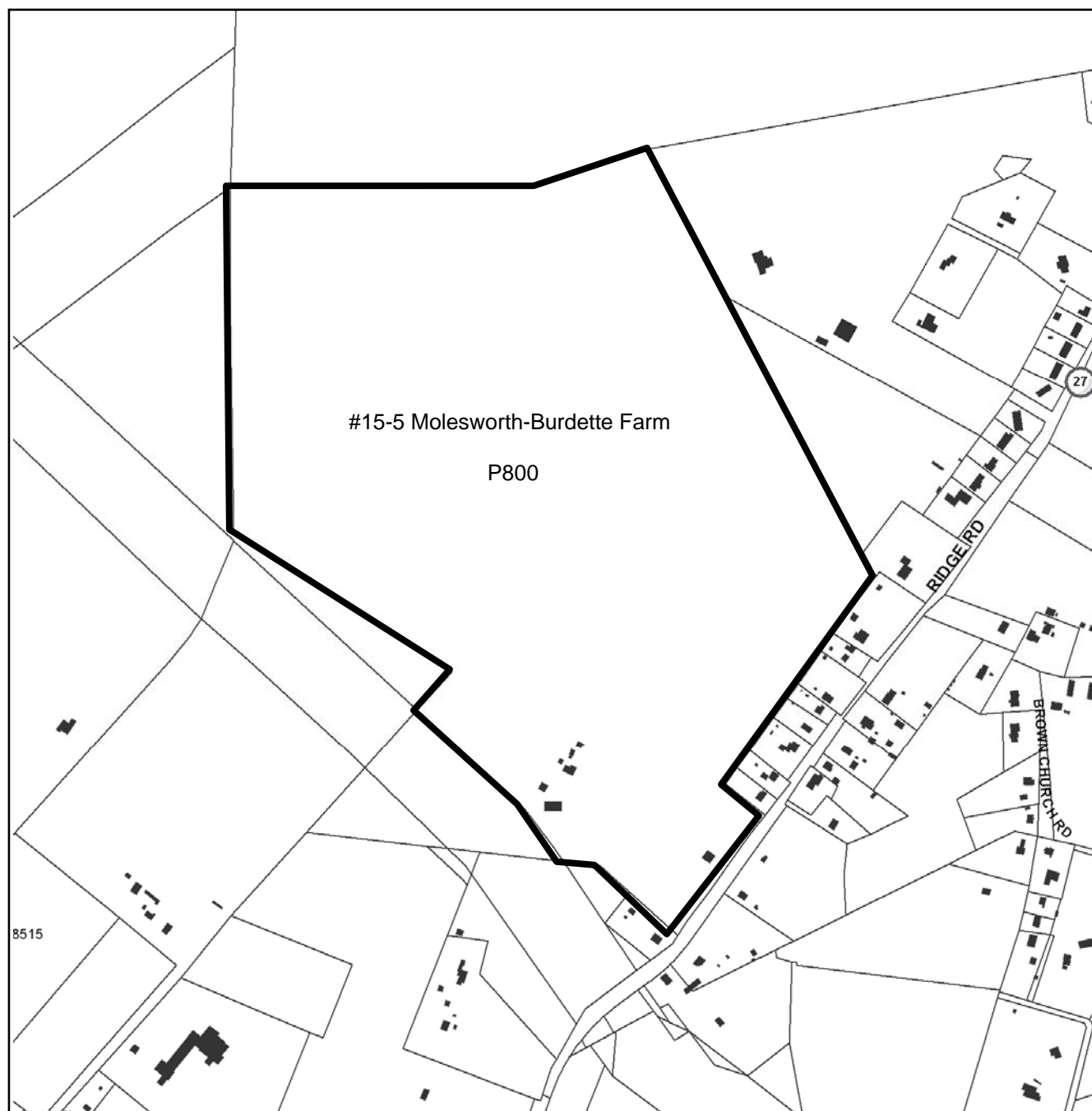
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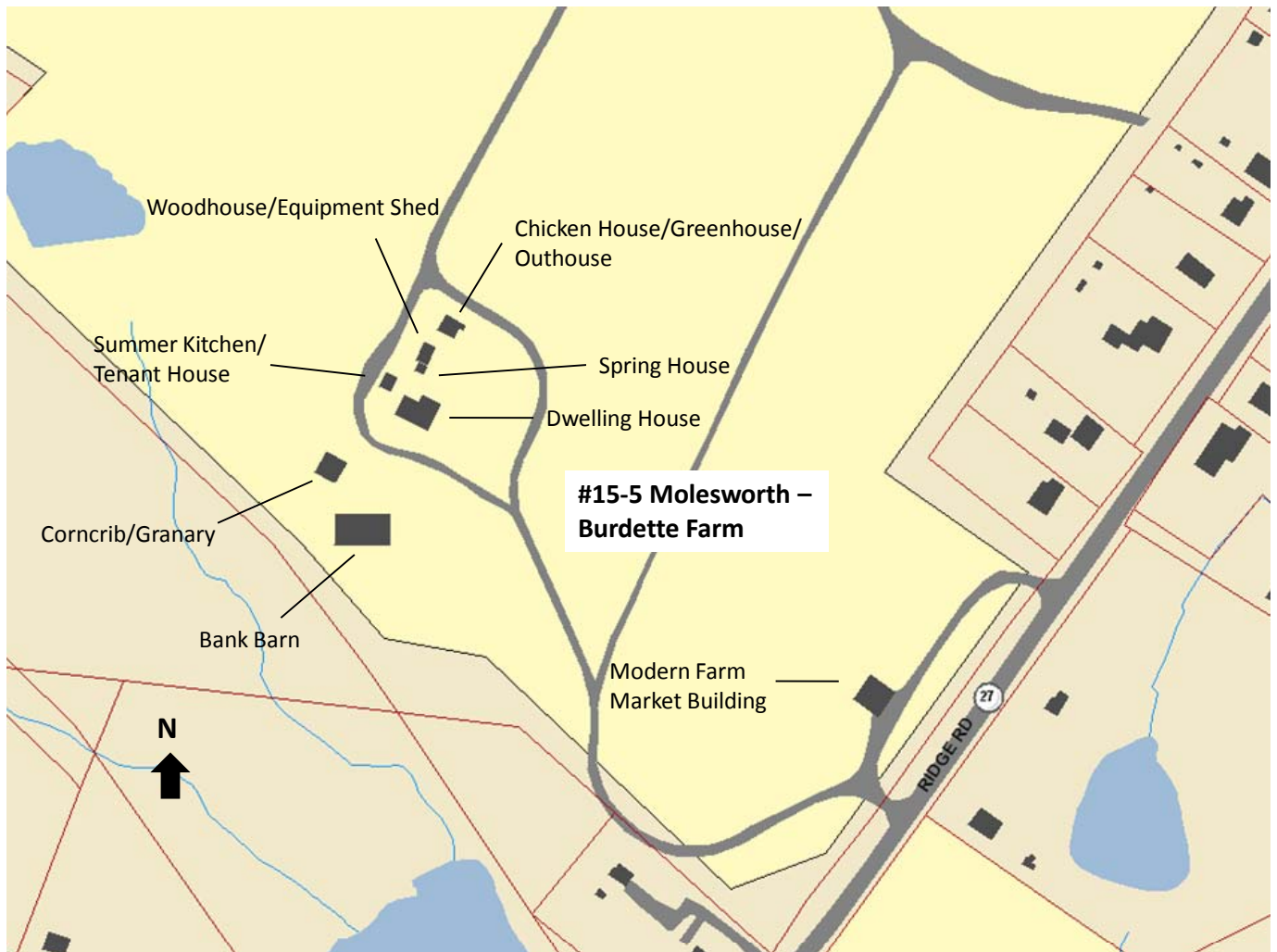
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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Dwelling House: southeast façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Dwelling House: northeast façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Dwelling House: northwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Dwelling House: southwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Summer Kitchen/Tenant House: southwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Summer Kitchen/Tenant House: southeast façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Dwelling House: northeast façade.
Summer Kitchen/Tenant House:
northeast façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Summer Kitchen/Tenant House: northeast and northwest
façades.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm

Front -- Springhouse: southwest and southeast façades.

Rear – Woodhouse/Storage Shed: southwest and southeast façades.

Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008

Maryland Historical Trust

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Front -- Springhouse: southwest façade.
Rear – Woodhouse/Storage Shed: southwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Springhouse: northwest and southwest façades.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Right – Bank Barn: East and north facades
Left -- Concrete-Block Milk House/Well and Pump House: northwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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Name
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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Bank Barn: west façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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Name
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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Bank Barn: west façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Corncrib/Granary: southeast façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Corncrib/Granary: northeast façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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Name
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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Corncrib/Granary: northwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Corncrib/Granary: southwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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Name
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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Corncrib/Granary: southeast
façade. Note tightly spaced vertical
boards forming the interior wall of
the granary to right of tractor.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

Maryland Historical Trust

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Corncrib/Granary: southeast façade. Note
tightly spaced vertical boards forming the
interior wall of the granary to left of tractor.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

Maryland Historical Trust

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Name
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#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm

Rear – Woodhouse/Storage Shed, with Rear Lean-to: southwest and northwest façades.

Front -- Springhouse: northwest façade.

Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Woodhouse/Storage Shed, with Rear Lean-to: southeast and
northeast façades.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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Name
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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Chicken Coop, Attached Greenhouse (left), Attached Outhouse
(right): southwest and southeast façades.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Concrete-Block Milk House/Well and Pump House: northwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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*#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Concrete-Block Milk House/Well and Pump House: northwest façade.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008*

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#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm

Right -- Concrete-Block Milk House/Well and Pump House: southeast façade.

Left – Bank Barn: south and east facades.

Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008

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Name
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#15-5 Molesworth-Burdette Farm
Modern Farm Market Building (non-contributing): southeast and southwest
facades.
Sandra Youla, 2.14.2008